

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

an ~~input device~~ remote controller which has an elongated ~~an elongated~~ insert portion having flexibility and being inserted into a space which is a target of inspection, and a flexibly bending operation portion which operates a flexibly bending portion provided at the insert portion to be flexibly bent;

a manipulating device inserting channel which communicates between a distal opening end that opens at a distal end side of the insert portion and a proximal opening end that opens at a proximal end of the insert portion; and

a linking portion which detachably links between a peripheral portion at the proximal opening end ~~in of~~ the manipulating device inserting channel and the ~~input device~~ remote controller, wherein the linking portion disposes the proximal opening end of the manipulating device inserting channel at a position which does not interfere with an operating region of the flexibly bending operation portion in the ~~input device~~ remote controller in a state in which a link is established between the ~~input device~~ remote controller and the peripheral portion of the proximal opening end.

2. (Currently Amended) An endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the linking portion is disposed on a face which is different from a face on which the flexibly bending operation portion of the ~~input device~~ remote controller is disposed.

3. (Currently Amended) An endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the linking portion is disposed on a side face of the ~~input device~~ remote controller.

4. (Currently Amended) An endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the linking portion is a fixing member fixed to one of at least the ~~input device~~ remote controller and the manipulating device inserting channel.

5. (Currently Amended) An endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the linking portion is a fixing device capable of linking between the ~~input device~~ remote controller and the peripheral portion of the proximal opening end at an arbitrary position ~~in~~ of an axial direction ~~in~~ of the insert portion.

6. (Original) An endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the manipulating device inserting channel is an incorporated channel incorporated in the insert portion.

7. (Original) An endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the manipulating device inserting channel is an external channel externally provided at the insert portion.

8. (Original) An endoscope apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the flexibly bending operation portion is a joystick which comprises an operating lever turnably supported at a proximal end portion via a turning fulcrum and generates a signal corresponding to a tilt angle of the operating lever.

9. (Currently Amended) An endoscope apparatus comprising:  
  
an insert portion which ~~inserts~~ includes a flexibly bending portion having flexibility, the flexibly bending portion being provided at a distal end side, into a space which is a target of inspection;

a manipulating device inserting channel which loads therein a predetermined manipulating device advancing from a proximal end side of the insert portion to a distal end side of the insert portion;

a flexible bending operation portion to flexibly bend the flexibly bending portion of the insert portion remotely by a rod portion operation; and

a connecting device which detachably mounts the ~~flexibly~~ flexible bending operation portion to make the ~~flexibly~~ flexible bending operation portion and the insert portion adjacent to each other, and ~~integrally~~ links the operation portion and the insert portion with each other such that an operating space of the rod portion operation and a loading space required for loading the predetermined manipulating device therein do not overlap each other.

10. (Original) An endoscope apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the connecting device is disposed on a face which is different from a face on which a rod portion of the flexible bending operation portion is disposed.

11. (Original) An endoscope apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the connecting device is disposed on a side face of the flexibly bending operation portion.

12. (Withdrawn) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

an elongated insert portion to be inserted into an object;

an operating portion which operates the insert portion; and

a connecting portion which detachably connects both or any one of the insert portion and the operating portion to a portion to be mounted, that is provided any one of a mount tool at an operator's body side or a peripheral device.

13. (Withdrawn) An endoscope apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the connecting portion comprises a first connecting portion which mounts any one of at least the insert portion and the operating portion thereto and a second connecting portion which is mounted on the portion to be mounted, and force line directions during an operation of mounting the first connecting portion and the second connecting portion are different from each other.

14. (Withdrawn) An endoscope apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the connecting portion has a linking portion which detachably links the first connecting portion and the second connecting portion with each other.

15. (Withdrawn) An endoscope apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the connecting portion is mounted to be plugged into an operator's belt.

16. (Withdrawn) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

an insert portion which inserts a flexibly bending portion having flexibility, the flexibly bending portion being provided at a distal end side, into a space which is a target of inspection;

a manipulating device inserting channel which loads therein a predetermined manipulating device advancing from an opening end at the proximal end side of the insert portion to an opening end at the distal end side of the insert portion;

a flexibly bending operation portion having a rod portion to flexibly bend the flexibly bending portion of the insert portion remotely and a proximal opening end provided out of an operating range of the rod portion; and

a display portion provided upward of the flexibly bending operation portion, the display portion displaying a state of the flexibly bending portion by an operation of the rod portion.

17. (Currently Amended) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

an elongated insert portion having flexibility, the elongated insert portion being inserted into a space which is a target of inspection;

an intermediate linking portion whose one end is linked with a proximal end side of the insert portion and whose other end is linked with a universal cable;

an input device comprising a flexibly bending operation portion to operate a flexibly bending portion provided at the insert portion to be flexibly bent;

a manipulating device inserting channel which communicates between a distal opening end that opens at a distal end side of the insert portion and a proximal opening end that opens at the intermediate linking portion; and

a linking portion which detachably links the input ~~portion~~ device and the intermediate linking portion, wherein the linking portion disposes the proximal opening of the manipulating device inserting channel, ~~the proximal opening end opening at the intermediate linking portion~~ at a position which does not interfere with an operating

region of the flexibly bending operation portion in the input device in a state in which a link is established between the input device and the intermediate linking portion.

18. (Original) An endoscope apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the linking portion is disposed on a face which is different from a face on which the flexibly bending operation portion of the input device is disposed.

19. (Original) An endoscope apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the linking portion is disposed on a side face of the input device.

20. (Withdrawn) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

an elongated insert portion to be inserted into an object;

an intermediate linking portion whose one end is linked with a proximal end side of the insert portion and whose other end is linked with a universal cable; and

a connecting portion for detachably connecting both or any one of the insert portion and the intermediate linking portion to a portion to be mounted that is provided at any one of a mount tool at an operator's body side or a peripheral device.

21. (Currently amended) An endoscope apparatus according to claim ~~17~~ 20, wherein the connecting portion comprises:

a first connecting portion which mounts thereto any one of at least the insert portion and the intermediate linking portion; and a second connecting portion which is mounted on the portion to be mounted, and force line directions during an operation of mounting the first connecting portion and the second connecting portion are different from each other.

22. (Currently amended) An endoscope apparatus according to claim ~~17~~ 20, wherein the connecting portion has a linking portion which detachably links the first connecting portion and the second connecting portion with each other.